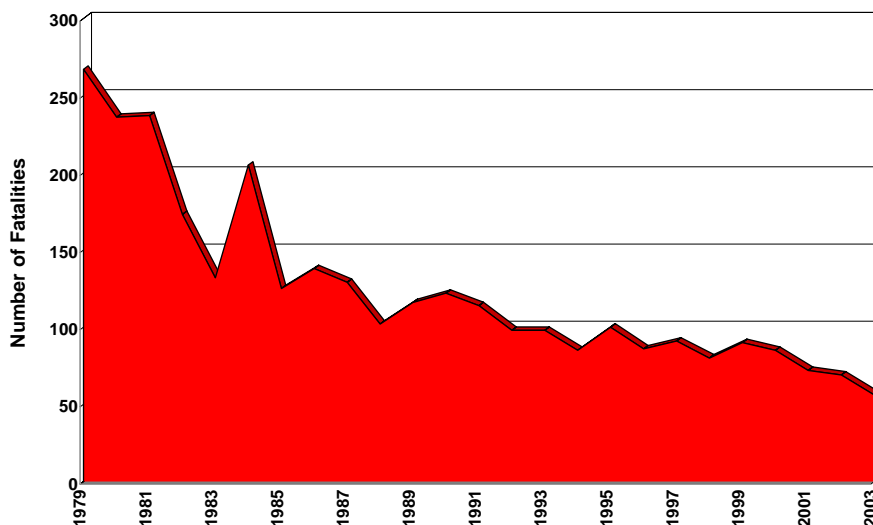


Mine Safety and Health At a Glance

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Safety and health in America's mining industry made significant strides during the 20th century and over the last 25 years in particular. In 1978, the first year the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) operated under the new Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, 242 miners died in mining accidents. Last year, in 2003, a record-low 56 fatalities were reported. More importantly, this was the third consecutive year mining fatalities decreased to record-low levels. MSHA uses a balanced approach to administering the Mine Act, offering a strong dose of compliance assistance to three key areas: Enforcement of rules, education and training of mining personnel, and technical assistance for the mining community. These three elements form MSHA's Triangle of Success. And the results have been a success! Since 2000, the mining industry has seen a 34% decrease in fatal accidents nationwide.

U.S. Mining Fatalities - 1979 to 2003



All Mine Safety and Health

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Number of mines	16,158	13,859	14,413	14,623	14,520	14,391
Number of miners	404,315	361,647	348,548	347,228	329,114	320,149
Fatalities	122	100	85	72	69	56
Fatal injury rate	.0329	.0303	.0272	.0232	.0237	.0197
All Injury rate	8.37	6.30	5.13	4.75	4.60	4.23
Small mines *	6,831	5,923	6,592	6,783	6,881	6,941
Coal production (millions of tons)	1,018	1,030	1,078	1,128	1,094	1,071
On-site inspection hours/mine	58.9	57.4	52.3	54.4	52.2	52.4
Hazard complaints	703	632	968	1,014	1,042	956
Citations and orders	155,995	123,147	120,011	126,353	105,572	109,882
S&S citations and orders (%)	57%	42%	36%	34%	32%	32%
Dollar amount assessed (Millions)	18.9	25.1	24.7	21.3	21.9	19.3

* Small Mine = Five or fewer operator employees

Coal Mine Safety and Health

U.S. Coal mine production reached the highest levels in history in recent years. In 2002 coal mining fatalities were at the lowest level in history with 27 but increased slightly during 2003 to 30. Even with the recent high production, MSHA's accident reduction efforts helped to keep the annual fatality totals nearly 50% lower in recent years compared with totals recorded in the early 1990s.

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Number of coal mines	4,320	2,946	2,124	2,144	2,065	1,972
Number of miners	168,625	132,111	108,098	114,458	110,966	104,824
Fatalities	66	47	38	42	27	30
Fatal injury rate	.0425	.0398	.0393	.0402	.0270	.0312
All Injury rate	10.18	8.22	6.64	6.03	6.03	5.38
Small mines *	1,136	885	571	545	535	571
States with coal mining	29	26	26	26	26	26
Coal production (millions of tons)	1,018	1,030	1,078	1,128	1,094	1,071
On-site inspection hours/mine	151.6	180.1	215.7	223.8	219.3	218.6
FY Inspection completion rate (%)	97.8	95.6	98.4	98.4	98.5	98.5
Hazard complaints	419	332	300	295	363	345
Citations and orders	107,515	82,121	58,285	68,181	57,189	56,848
S&S citations and orders (%)	67%	49%	42%	40%	38%	39%
Dollar amount assessed (Millions)	14.7	18.4	12.0	11.4	13.0	11.3

* Small Mine = Five or fewer operator employees

Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health

Metal and nonmetal mining includes production of metals such as gold and copper, nonmetals such as salt and phosphate, and production of stone, sand and gravel. Mining techniques and conditions are diverse and differ substantially from the coal sector. Most metal and nonmetal operations are small. In 2003, the metal and nonmetal mining sector set a **new record-low** total of annual fatalities with 26 for the year. MSHA has focused on small mines and formed partnerships to aid in accident reduction.

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Number of metal/nonmetal mines	11,838	10,913	12,289	12,479	12,455	12,419
Number of miners	235,690	229,536	240,450	232,770	218,148	215,325
Fatalities	56	53	47	30	42	26
Fatal injury rate	.0261	.0250	.0218	.0146	.0220	.0138
All Injury rate	7.05	5.24	4.45	4.10	3.86	3.65
Small mines *	5,695	5,038	6,021	6,238	6,346	6,370
States with M/NM mining	50	50	50	50	50	50
On-site inspection hours/mine	25.1	24.3	24.1	25.3	24.6	26.1
FY Inspection completion rate (%)	98.8	97.6	73.7	75.3	87.6	87.4
Hazard complaints	284	300	668	719	679	611
Citations and orders	48,480	41,026	61,726	58,172	48,383	53,034
S&S citations and orders (%)	35%	28%	31%	27%	26%	24%
Dollar amount assessed (Millions)	4.2	6.7	12.7	9.9	8.9	8.0

* Small Mine = Five or fewer operator employees

MSHA's Goals (FY 04-08):

- 1) Reduce fatal injury incidence rates 15 percent by FY 08
- 2) Reduce all injury incidence rates 50 percent from the FY 2000 baseline by FY 08
- 3) Reduce respirable coal mine dust exposure by 5 percent per year from established baseline.
- 4) Reduce respirable silica dust exposure in metal and nonmetal mines by 5 percent per year from established baseline.
- 5) Reduce noise exposures above the citation level 5 percent per year from established baseline.

For more information:

www.msha.gov

MSHA Office of Program Education and Outreach Services, (202) 693-9400